

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 14, 2006 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action Claims 1-3, 6-24, and 26-28 have been rejected; and Claims 4, 5, 25, 29-32 have been objected to. The Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 5, 16, and 29-32 and have cancelled Claims 2, 4, and 24-28. The Applicants reserve the right to further pursue the cancelled claims in continuation and/or divisional application as well as for appeal purposes. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-17, 19-22, and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Ogata et al.* (US 6,171,191 B1) in view of *Furuki* (US 6,268,671 B1). Claims 7 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Ogata* and *Furuki* further in view of *Rosenberg et al.* (US 5,739,811). Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Ogata* and *Furuki* further in view of *You et al.* (US 5,668,423). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

However, to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Applicants have amended the claims and do not necessarily agree with any or all of the rejections made by the examiner. The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3, 5-23 and 29-32 are in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is believed that this reply places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this reply is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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